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Pakistan's Territorial Disputes and State Sovereignty: An Analysis of International Law and Implications

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Abstract

This article delves into Pakistan's territorial conflicts and their relationship with international law. To understand the legal complexity, diplomatic consequences, and policy implications for the sovereignty of South Asian governments and the region's stability, the article thoroughly examines the Durand Line Dispute, the Indus Water Treaty, and the Kashmir Conflict. One such example of a prolonged territorial dispute between India and Pakistan with roots in conflicting claims to sovereignty and historical legacies is the Kashmir Conflict. The case study analyzes the legal frameworks, UN resolutions, and diplomatic initiatives to resolve the conflict while addressing humanitarian issues and fostering peaceful cohabitation. International boundary law, historical grievances, and border administration are all complicated by the Durand Line Dispute with Afghanistan. The article scrutinizes past agreements, border construction, and diplomatic relations to understand border issues and state independence. A pact allows India and Pakistan to share water. International law examines contract writing, dispute resolution, and collaboration. It examines how they can affect peace and harmony. However, talks, laws, and policies do not function harmoniously to maintain peace and settle territorial disputes. Therefore, the article emphasizes the need for safety for government administration, cooperation, and problem-solving. Pakistan can end wars, resolve territorial disputes, and protect South Asia through laws, diplomacy, and agreements with other nations. Regional forums and international organizations like the UN facilitate territorial conflict resolution and mediation. This paper examines Pakistan's land disputes under international law, discusses regional cooperation and governmental authorities.

Keywords: Territory, Pakistan, Disputes, Sovereignty, International Law, Case Studies, Implications

1. Introduction

The concept of supreme law is fundamental to international law and defines the liberties, powers, and privileges each state enjoys within its established boundaries (Klabbers 2020). Pakistan, located in South Asia, holds significant political and cultural importance. Autonomy is more than just a legal matter for Pakistan as it plays a significant role in shaping the nation's behavior on the global stage (Bose and Jalal 2022). Ongoing land disputes, complex global events, and changing security paradigms make it challenging to understand Pakistan's narrative of sovereignty (Anwar, Mumtaz, and Mateen 2023). Land disputes have been a long-standing issue for the country and have impacted its ability to establish and maintain diplomatic relations (Akbar 2011). Even after the partition of British India in 1947, Kashmir remained the primary cause of conflict between India and Pakistan. The laws of Kashmir are discussed through bilateral agreements, United Nations resolutions, and the

demands of the Kashmiri people. These issues make it challenging to maintain command in combat zones (Ali et al. 2019).

Afghanistan is located on the western side of the Line of Durand, as Pakistan perceives it. Colonial-era agreements resolved these issues, but they still create problems at borders, with refugees, and regarding security. The Durand Line conflict emerged from various local racial and political agendas, making it difficult to assert oneself, speak up about the past, and establish boundaries (Manchanda 2017). Pakistan and Iran are still determining their Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea maritime borders. Their assertions are identical, which hinders Pakistan's ability to defend its rights and make wise decisions (Pak and Farajzadeh 2007). Establishing exclusive economic zones, ocean protection, and resource accumulation. In its first section, this research paper delves into the effects of territorial disputes on Pakistan's legal system. It examines Pakistan's international partnerships' obstacles and opportunities, using case studies, legal assessments, historical backgrounds, and geopolitical repercussions. Besides achieving high grades, this research project aims to clarify territorial disputes, enhance international relations, and safeguard Pakistan's sovereignty by providing actionable information, policy recommendations, and long-term strategies. We can tackle complex global issues by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application while preserving liberty, harmony, and collaboration principles (McKercher and Du Cros 2002).

Pakistan is a strong country that aims for peace and security in the region, especially during times of conflict (Ayaz and Idrees 2015). One can better understand Pakistani politics and its influence on South Asia and beyond by examining the interwoven relationships among land disputes, state authority, and international law (Ibrahim et al. 2021).

2. Problem Statement

Pakistan's power and foreign policy have always been divided due to its location. These unsolved disputes lead to issues in politics and the legal system. This study applies international law to land disputes through case studies. After reading this, we will better understand global politics and Pakistan's independence.

3. Methods

This research paper looks at Pakistan's territorial disputes and state sovereignty: an analysis of international law and implications. In this research paper, we applied a qualitative approach that uses both descriptive and analytical methods. The descriptive method explains the need to know about laws, historical events, and government stances. The analytical method, on the other hand, looks at these parts and rates them to find patterns, links, and main ideas.

3.1 Collection of Data

International treaties and conventions, court decisions, and official papers are the primary sources of this research paper. We are able to access essential treaties and conventions, such as the UN Charter, the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, and relevant bilateral and trilateral treaties, through legal sources like HeinOnline and Westlaw, as well as the official websites of international organizations. Important legal views regarding this are taken from court cases, especially those from the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Relevant cases on this topic are found on the ICJ's website and in other law databases. One example is the ICJ's opinion on whether Pakistan's claims in the Kashmir region are valid. Official papers like government statements, policy papers, and communications from Pakistan and the states concerned are also being reviewed. Official government websites, archives, and formal requests are used to gather these documents.

We employ books, reports, news pieces, and scholarly articles to support the primary sources. Academic literature and journals on international law, territorial disputes, and literature which is related to our research topic

3.2 Framework

The study is founded on several significant themes in international law, including sovereignty, territorial integrity, self-determination, and the function of international groups. For example, the Durand Line War is used to study the concept of sovereignty, whereas Kashmiri organizations study the right to choose for one. The idea of *uti possidetis juris* is examined in light of how the Durand Line was created and Pakistan Iran dispute etc. A critical assessment is also made of how well global organizations such as the United Nations can arbitrate and resolve crises like the one in Kashmir.

3.3 Analysis of Data

A variety of data analysis techniques exist, including comparative, thematic, and legal studies. The goal of legal analysis is to make sense of legal texts and court rulings. This makes the arguments and points of view of the state's easier to understand. The conflict over Kashmir is one instance of how the UN Charter's provisions on territorial integrity are implemented. We can identify trends and distinguishing factors by contrasting Pakistan's land problems with those of other nations. One post-colonial territorial issue that is being compared to others is the Kashmir dispute. When you consider sovereignty claims in South Asian territorial issues as a whole, concepts like sovereignty, self-determination, and international mediation frequently come up. These pieces demonstrate how Pakistan's territorial conflicts relate to international law as a whole. They also present a convoluted picture of the implications of these differences for governmental authority.

4. Background of Territorial Disputes

Kashmiris have suffered over 70 years. Black Day began when the Indian army entered Jammu and Kashmir on October 27, 1947. Since then, Kashmiris nationwide and across the Line of Control have celebrated Black Day. Annually, the day halts activities in the occupied Kashmir region, public gatherings, educational seminars, and protests in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and major cities worldwide. Today, India invaded Jammu and Kashmir, defying the Kashmiri people and the Indian Independence Act and Partition Plan. These proposals split the Indian British Colony into Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan, including Western provinces and East Bengal.

The more than 550 princely republics in the subcontinent were offered to join Pakistan or India based on region and religion. Indian forces conquered Hyderabad and Junagarh, where Hindus dominated but Muslims ruled. The kings wanted independence from India. Kashmir's Muslim majority made joining Pakistan logical. The Hindu ruler's controversial Instrument of Accession announced a temporary partnership with India, jeopardising Kashmiris' future. Hindu extremists, Dogra Maharaja, and Indian army killed over 300,000 Kashmiri Muslims in Jammu. This terrible deed punished Kashmiris for wanting to join Pakistan and changed the region's demographics, hurting any future referendum in favor of India. A historian calls the massacre Jammu & Kashmir's worst genocide.

Kashmiris liberated Azad Jammu and Kashmir from India's illegitimate domination. India officially asked UN Security Council aid in resolving the Kashmir issue on January 1, 1948, after a military loss. The UN Security Council rejected the Indian invasion and occupation of Kashmir in multiple resolutions. The UN's August 13, 1948, and January 5, 1949 resolutions permitted a truce, a clearly defined boundary, the departure of armed forces from the State, and a fair and impartial vote. Unfortunately, the ceasefire and ceasefire line have been implemented, but the occupied zone has not been demilitarized or a free and impartial vote under UN supervision held. Due to worldwide pressure and Kashmiris' determined determination, Jawaharlal Nehru and other leaders publicly vowed to resolve the dispute and allow Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination. But they broke their promises. For nearly 60 years, India's Kashmir stubbornness has undermined South Asian peace, security, and stability. After India's May 11, 1998 nuclear detonations and threats to Pakistan, South Asia became unstable. On May 28, 1998, Pakistan had to demonstrate its nuclear capabilities to balance power. Kashmir is a nuclear flashpoint. India has expended its resources for 69 years yet failed to suppress Kashmiri liberation. nearly the previous 27 years, Indian armed forces have slain nearly 93,000 Kashmiris, leaving 25,000 widowed women, 100,000 orphans, and 10,000 shamed

women. Many innocent Kashmiris taken by military soldiers are still missing, but some inexplicable burials have been found in the occupied zone. The EU Parliament unanimously passed a resolution in Strasbourg on July 10, 2008, encouraging India to conduct an independent and impartial investigation to locate mass grave victims. India hasn't addressed this demand.

Kashmir Day recalls the world to resolve the Kashmir conflict according to Jammu and Kashmir's demands and UN resolutions. This also sends New Delhi a strong message that Kashmiris would not accept its unlawful rule over their territory. They will fight till India and the world grant them independence.

5. Geopolitical Representation



Figure 1: Geopolitical representation of Kashmir (Kashmir conflict – Wikipedia)

The image of Kashmir vividly portrays the rugged terrain and the on-going disputes over the delineation of borders among China, Pakistan, and India. The fig.1 displays the territorial boundary between India and Pakistan known as "Jammu & Kashmir". India governs this region, which encompasses the Kashmir Valley. Pakistan asserts that the valley ought to have been incorporated into its territory during the partition of India in 1947. However, it is important to note that "Azad Kashmir" and "Gilgit-Baltistan" are integral territories of Pakistan. India, however, asserts that they constitute integral components of the former sovereign entity known as Jammu and Kashmir. The primary requirement for Gilgit-Baltistan is its proximity to both China and the Karakoram Highway.

The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) of 1960 is a significant component of the Kashmir conflict. It explicitly outlines the regulations for the conflict around water resources. The water from the Indus River is divided between India and Pakistan through the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The construction was facilitated with assistance from the World Bank. Pakistan exercises sovereignty over the western rivers of the treaty, while India has control over the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej). India's limited utilization of the western rivers for activities such as shipping, irrigation, or hydroelectric developments has caused difficulty. Pakistan is concerned about a potential decrease in the velocity of water flow.

India asserts that the territory known as "Aksai Chin" on the map is a constituent part of Ladakh, although China exercises jurisdiction over it. The situation is deteriorating due to this. Aksai Chin holds strategic importance due to its elevated position and proximity to crucial trade routes (Khan 2024).

The situation in Kashmir is deteriorating due to escalating conflicts in both the military and political spheres (Ali and Mustafa 2021a). Multiple UN resolutions have mandated a referendum to determine the fate of Jammu and Kashmir, although it has not materialized due to political and military disputes. The Line of Control (LoC) frequently witnesses hostilities due to the substantial military presence of both India and Pakistan in the region. There have been allegations that the military is oppressively exerting its power, limiting people's freedom of movement and freedom of speech (Hayat and Ahmed 2021).

The Kashmir conflict is intricate. The fig.1 illustrates that it encompasses more than simply terrestrial areas. It pertains to politics and the allocation of resources. The Indus Water Treaty remains significant for certain individuals, albeit it is a contentious approach to water management. Furthermore, the complexity of terminating the war is exacerbated by the intricate dynamics of politics and the military.

6. Reasons of Kashmir Dispute

The issue of Kashmir has far-reaching consequences beyond Pakistan and India. It is important to consider the cultural, humanitarian, economic, legal, and diplomatic implications of the Kashmir issue (Ali and Mustafa 2021b). Local businesses and residents are impacted, and the conflict has resulted in human rights violations, including arrests without probable cause, disappearances, and curbed free speech. Women and children are particularly affected. The Kashmir issue also has a cultural and identity aspect that must be considered, given the diversity of people, languages, and traditions in the region. Preserving cultural heritage and individual liberties is crucial (Hussain and Mehmood 2021). The prolonged civil war in Sri Lanka has hindered the country's ability to invest in infrastructure and spending, leading to a struggling economy and unemployment, particularly affecting impoverished and stagnant regions (Athukorala 2016). When deliberating on the Kashmir issue, we must also consider the plight of the downtrodden and take immediate action to help them and preserve their rights (Aktuna and Rasool 2020). Ignoring the impact of Kashmir on politics and the environment is reckless, as war and border disputes can cause harm to both people and the environment, which can enrage environmentalists (Aktuna and Rasool 2020). We must prioritize caring for the environment and pursuing long-term growth to resolve land disputes like Kashmir. How India views Kashmir affects how locals do business, communicate and collaborate. Achieving peace could make it easier for people to engage in business, communicate, and explore new ventures, making life safer and better. Years of war make it difficult for neighboring countries to trust, collaborate, and build. Therefore, we must consider Kashmir beyond politics and legislation to achieve positive results. Simply thinking about money is not enough (Rashid 2017).

The environmental, social, humanitarian, and cultural aspects are fundamental. To maintain cultural diversity, boost the economy, and uphold human rights, the people of Kashmir need open communication, trust, and collaboration. All parties concerned with the Kashmir issue must collaborate in a well-organized and concerted effort to achieve justice, respect, and prosperity (Wani and Khazir 2018).

7. Durand Line Dispute

The Durand Line is a disputed border between Afghanistan and Pakistan that has been a source of conflict for over a century. The line was drawn by Sir Mortimer Durand, a British commander, in the late 1800s, without the involvement of neighboring Pashtun groups (Begum, 2015). The Durand Line, a border agreement between Afghanistan and Britain while they were colonies, has been debated since the colonies ended. Afghanistan claims territory beyond the Durand Line in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Family, company, and social network disputes over the boundary's placement and existence have raised questions about who owns the land and how it is maintained. People have fled their homes, created new organizations, and crossed borders (Janjua 2009). Terrorists have entered Afghanistan and Pakistan to attack and traffic drugs, making the region less secure. Pakistan's autonomy and border safety have suffered from the Durand Line issue. India and Pakistan also disagree over the Durand Line, which hinders collaboration. Afghanistan's government claims land

beyond the Durand Line, complicating issues. Building trust between the two countries has been tough, making the situation complicated (Parveen et al. 2020). Several actions need to be taken to improve the situation, such as enforcing the law, promoting business growth, solving old problems, and fostering mutual dialogue (Fort and Schipani 2004). Long-term solutions must adhere to rules such as peaceful cohabitation, mutual respect, and territorial unity. What the affected individuals desire and need should also be considered. ., they must work on building trust between Pakistan and Afghanistan to improve their relations. We need to consider the Durand Line, which separates India and Pakistan. The outcome will be a more secure border, collaboration, and stability around South Asia.



Figure 2: Mapping of Durand Line (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durand_Line).

Map marking the Durand Line border in red



| Characteristics | |
|-----------------|---|
| Entities |  Afghanistan  Pakistan |
| Length | 2,640 km (1,640 mi) |
| History | |
| Established | 12 November 1893 Signing of the Durand Line Agreement at the end of the first phase of the Second Anglo-Afghan War |
| Current shape | 8 August 1919 Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919 ratified at the end of the Third Anglo-Afghan War |
| Treaties | Treaty of Gandamak , Durand Line Agreement , Treaty of Rawalpindi |

Table 1: Key details of Durand Line (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Durand_Line)

The boundary separating Afghanistan and Pakistan is indicated on the fig.2 and table.1 as the red Durand Line. There is often disagreement among people over this matter. The Durand Line extends to this distance: The distance is 2,640 kilometers. The construction of the Durand Line commenced following the conclusion of the first phase of the Second Anglo-Afghan War on November 12, 1893. Afghanistan achieved full nationhood upon the conclusion of the Third Anglo-Afghan War on August 8, 1919, marked by the signing of the Anglo-Afghan Treaty of 1919 (Anwar, Bibi, and Khan 2020). The name of the place was derived from Sir Mortimer Durand, the individual responsible for negotiating the agreement on behalf of British India. This statement was intended to demonstrate the extent of the influence that British India and Afghanistan exerted over one another. These statements have significantly strained the relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Afghans have consistently denied that the Durand Line demarcates the boundary between their nation and another. According to reports, the British Empire compelled the Pashtun communities residing in the region to negotiate and reach an agreement (Bordonaro 2023). The tribes are divided by the Durand Line, so severing their robust familial and cultural ties. This exacerbates the situation both locally and nationwide. The Durand Line is well recognized as a tangible demarcation that has global awareness. The Treaty of Gandamak, the Durand Line Agreement, and the Treaty of Rawalpindi, all after the establishment of the line, substantiate Pakistan's stance. To safeguard its territory and authority, Pakistan must possess a clear and comprehensive view of this boundary (Pari 2023).

The Durand Line holds significant geographical significance. Several terrorist organizations have sought refuge in the border region due to its rugged terrain. This exacerbates the challenge for both nations to ensure the safety of their citizens. A barrier was constructed along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to prevent drug smuggling and acts of terrorism. The current situation has exacerbated the already strained relations between the two nations.

8. Pakistan Iran Territorial Disputes

The connection between Pakistan and Iran is complex due to their shared interest in war, history, and culture. Also, they disagree on land that is right next to their lines. The line between Iran and Pakistan is central to one of the main arguments in Baluchistan. A lot of people don't agree with this line because both countries claim different parts of it and have different ideas about what it means (Garver 2011). The biggest issue is that no written deal or treaty claims to be the border. People don't always agree on who runs border areas, how to cross the line, or how to keep people safe. Iran and Pakistan can't work together on security issues and keep the peace in the area as efficiently. People who disagree have talked about how to cross the border and done things to repair trust. Each country has agreed to work with the other to fix issues at the border and make it easier for them to trade, fight terrorists, and link up with other places in the area. However, Pakistan and Iran still have problems with land that need to be solved (Okano 2010). Understanding both sides and following international laws and rules will take time and political will. The two countries next to each other must figure out an excellent way to set their limits so everyone is happy (Verma 2007).

9. Legal Framework and International Law Perspectives

9.1. UN Resolutions

Pakistan is having a land conflict, and it's essential to look at this from both the point of view of foreign law and the law of the country (Mahmud 2010). The world is full of differences. Some of these are about international law, old deals, and the bigger picture of international law (Roberts 2017). It is essential to understand the legal framework to fully consider the problems, potential solutions, and potential effects. The UN sets the rules for both international law and political rules. There are times when this is especially true, like when Pakistan is having trouble with its land. Everyone in the world is subject to regulations and laws (Joyner 2005).

Since the war began, it has been central to all UN decisions. Resolution 47 of the UN Security Council from 1948 is still critical today. It wants Jammu and Kashmir's people to be able to vote on their

future. People must make this decision for themselves. Self-determination refers to the ability of groups impacted by a change to utilize democracy to make decisions about their lives (Lowe et al. 2010). Everyone has to follow what the UN says about land disputes, such as the Kashmir issue. People must sign laws stating what the Security Council or General Assembly says the world wants (Khurshid 2016). These decisions set the rules for when people try to end a war peacefully or through peace talks; these decisions set the rules for those attempts. UN resolutions end wars and maintain peace. UN peacekeepers and observers are essential in land conflicts. They facilitate talks, monitor ceasefires, and create trust to sustain peace (Wani and Suwirta 2014).

The UN must safeguard civilians, uphold human rights, and assist in land dispute resolution. In Kashmir, where violence and fear are frequent, many UN rulings require protecting everyone's rights, supporting people in need, and monitoring their health and well-being (Jahangir and Shafi 2013). The UN can peacefully resolve land disputes. They encourage diplomatic attempts to resolve conflicts and find solutions that satisfy everyone while protecting international law, state sovereignty, and border integrity. The UN helps nations trust, communicate, and live peacefully (Elden 2006). Everyone at the UN wants to keep the peace, protect human rights, and find peaceful ways to resolve issues. This is very clear in the Kashmir case and other UN decisions about land disputes. To deal with challenging problems and global issues and get countries to work together to make the world a better place, they made a set of laws and rules for handling politics and the law (Lone 2023).

9.2. Bilateral Agreements in the Prospective of International Law

Pakistan has experienced legal and political disputes with Iran, Afghanistan, and India, all of which are geographically close. As a result of these conflicts, land disputes between countries are now handled differently through agreements (Pattanaik 2012). Agreements are reached when nations engage in diplomatic dialogue. These agreements spell out the rights and responsibilities of each party, as well as the procedures for resolving conflicts, cooperating, and working for global peace (Javaid and Dashti 2016).

9.2.1. Simla Agreement (1972)

The Agreement on Bilateral Relations between the Governments of India and Pakistan is the official name of the agreement. After the 1971 war between India and Pakistan, it was created. On June 28, 1972, the agreement was terminated. It was signed in Barnes Court (Raj Bhavan) in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India, on July 2, 1972. On August 4, 1972, it was signed following mutual consent. The signing date was August 7, 1972. On August 3, 1972, Pakistan and India both signed the agreement. That was on July 15, 1972. This agreement was made possible via collaboration between the foreign departments of Pakistan and India. At the time, Indira Gandhi headed India, and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto led Pakistan. They both signed it. The agreement was approved by the parliaments of Pakistan and India. Simla had devised a plan to ensure that there would be no conflict between the two groups. They were all instructed not to meddle in one another's personal affairs and to respect one another's authority and domain. It stated that negotiations between the two parties were necessary to reach a silent resolution. They reaffirmed that they would maintain the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir as long as it did not alter the legal system on either side (Anon 2024).

The Simla Agreement, which restored normalcy between India and Pakistan following the war in 1971, was the result of much effort. It was also evident that they were concerned about maintaining local safety and tranquility. To facilitate easy communication and understanding, the treaty was written and signed in three languages. The Line of Control in Kashmir must be respected, and negotiations between both parties should be conducted cordially. Both sides must be able to work through their differences through dialogue. Although the Simla Agreement was intended to be beneficial, there are still issues, such as the Kashmir Question and national divides, that need to be addressed (Ashraf 2015).

Simla or Shimla Agreement



| Agreement on Bilateral Relations Between the Government of India and The Government of Pakistan | |
|---|--|
| Type | Peace treaty |
| Context | Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 |
| Drafted | 28 June 1972 |
| Signed | 2 July 1972; 51 years ago |
| Location | Barnes Court (Raj Bhavan), ^[2] Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India |
| Sealed | 7 August 1972 |
| Ratified | 15 July 1972 (by Pakistan) 3 August 1972 (by India) |
| Effective | 4 August 1972 |
| Condition | Ratification by both parties |
| Negotiators | Ministry of External Affairs of India Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan |
| Signatories | Indira Gandhi (Prime Minister of India) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (President of Pakistan) |
| Parties |  Republic of India  Islamic Republic of Pakistan |
| Ratifiers | Parliament of India Parliament of Pakistan |
| Languages | Hindi Urdu English |

Table 2: Key details of Simla Agreement (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simla_Agreement)

9.2.2. Durand Line Agreement 1893

1893, Afghanistan and British India reached an agreement, now known as the "Durand Line" region. However, there have been disputes regarding Afghanistan's territorial claims extending beyond the Durand Line, including Pakistan's Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The historical context and legal interpretations of the Durand Line Agreement remain significant in border management and bilateral relations. (Yar, Ihsan, and Hafiz 2022).

| Countries: | Pakistan and Afghanistan |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Durand line Distance | 2,640-kilometer |
| Agreement Signed | 11/12/1893 |

Table 3: Detail of Bilateral Agreement (<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/durand-line/>)

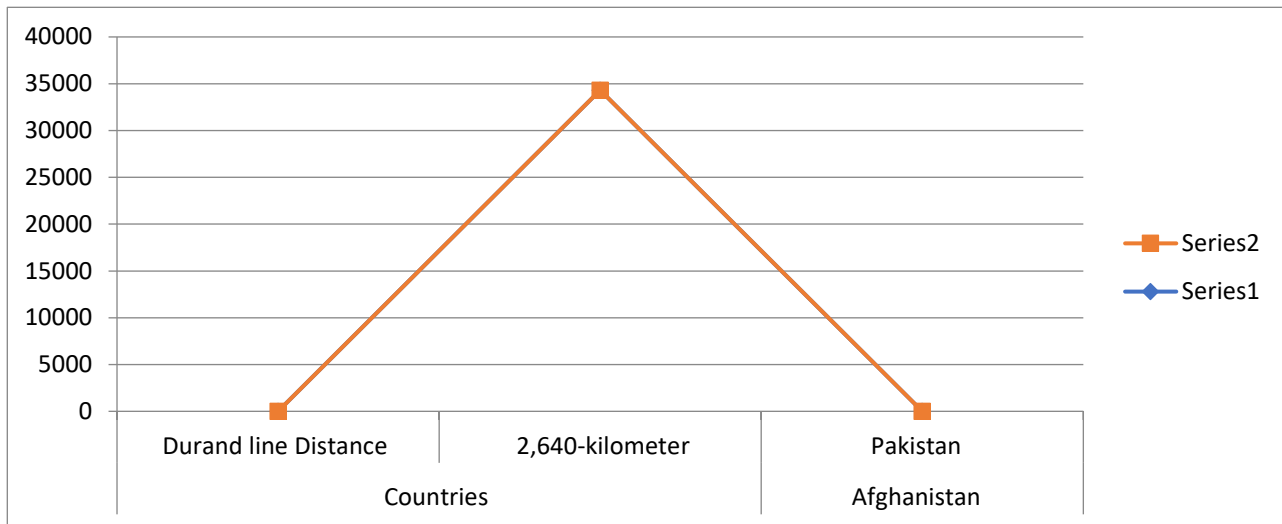


Figure 3: Mapping Representation of Durand Line Distance

9.2.3. Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement

Pakistan and Afghanistan signed the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) to boost economic cooperation and trade facilitation. The agreement intends to promote bilateral commerce, improve connectivity, and enhance economic relations. However, challenges such as political instability, security concerns, and the global drug trade have hindered the agreement's potential benefits from being fully realized (Ahmed and Ahmad 2018).

Land Routes For Transit



Distances Between Cities

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| • KARACHI TO KABUL | 1843 KM apx |
| • KARACHI TO JALLALABAD | 1640 KM apx |
| • KARACHI TO MAZARE-SHAREEF | 2500 KM apx |
| • KARACHI TO KANDHAR | 913 KM apx |

Figure 4: Graphical Representation of APTTA (<https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/afghan-transit-trade/46763800#14>)

This fig.4 and chart display the road routes and distances connecting the major cities of Afghanistan and Pakistan. They can be utilized to acquire further knowledge on the Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA). The APTTA, signed in 2010, facilitates the transportation of goods between the two countries. The objective is to facilitate trade and establish connections between nations. The fig.5 displays the primary routes for traveling from Karachi to Quetta and then to Kandahar. It provides guidance on traveling from Karachi to Peshawar by way of the Khyber Pass, which serves as a route to Jalalabad and Kabul. The distance from Karachi to Kabul is 1843 km, from Karachi to Jalalabad is 1640 km, from Karachi to Mazar-e-Sharif is 2500 km, and from Kandahar is 913 km. This

demonstrates the minimum scale required for commerce to occur within a network. Due to its landlocked status, Afghanistan has limitations in its ability to engage in international trade and diplomacy with other nations. Pakistan's ports are the sole means by which it can accomplish that. The roads in Afghanistan hold significant importance. Many imports destined for Afghanistan transit through Karachi, a major seaport city. As a result of the agreement, Afghan truckers are now able to transport merchandise from Karachi to various regions within Afghanistan. This facilitates more trade.

Pakistan might utilize the Afghanistan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA) to facilitate the transportation of goods to Central Asia through Afghanistan. This facilitates collaboration among enterprises in neighbouring countries. Implementing the APTTA has challenges due to security issues, inadequate infrastructure, and internal government obstacles. These factors can impede the efficiency of trade and travel. The fig.4 and lengths table illustrate the significance of the roads between Afghanistan and Pakistan from both a geographical and practical perspective. The APTTA aims to facilitate trade and business between Afghanistan and Pakistan by utilizing these transportation routes.

9.2.4. Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Agreement

Establishing a natural gas pipeline in Pakistan will fulfill the country's energy requirements in compliance with the Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Agreement, also called the Peace Pipeline. Despite the agreement representing energy security considerations and cooperation, logistical issues, international sanctions against Iran, geopolitical concerns, and economic collaboration have caused a delay in project implementation and increased bilateral complexity. Although bilateral agreements are vital in facilitating communication and addressing shared challenges, they are full of imperfections (Saira and Javed 2022). The inability to agree on regulation, compliance, or interpretation makes it difficult for two nations to maintain ties during territorial disputes. All parties know this according to the Durand Line Agreement and the Simla Agreement. Mutually beneficial agreements require confidence and cooperation from all parties involved. This is the most effective strategy for bolstering the region's prosperity, safety, and stability (Bukh, 2019).

9.2.5. Indus Water Treaty

In 1960, Pakistan and India decided to share the Indus Water Treaty. People from different countries can work together to solve this case and protect the rights of people who live near water. The agreement outlines water sharing from rivers such as the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab that traverse both countries. It discusses providing water, working together, and settling disputes to maintain peace around shared water sources. The Indus Water Treaty case study had significant issues over who should control the water. These problems are substantial when considering climate change, waste, and population growth. It sets up technical committees, group projects, long-term water practices, and things people can do together to help solve water problems. It is essential to talk to one another, get what you need from each other, and stop managing the water supplies that Pakistan and India share. This is what the deal shows: how to work together across foreign water borders (Jamir 2016).



Figure 5: Durand Line and Major Rivers in the Region (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_River)

9.2.6. Tributaries of Indus River

The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) is a diplomatic accord between India and Pakistan, facilitated and managed by the World Bank, to apportion and exploit the water resources of the Indus River and its tributaries (Qureshi 2017). The agreement was signed in Karachi on 19 September 1960 by the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the former Pakistani ruler Ayub Khan. The Treaty confers jurisdiction over the rivers Beas, Ravi, and Sutlej, located in India, with an average yearly discharge of 41 billion cubic meters (Mehsud 2021).

9.2.7. Average of yearly water Discharge

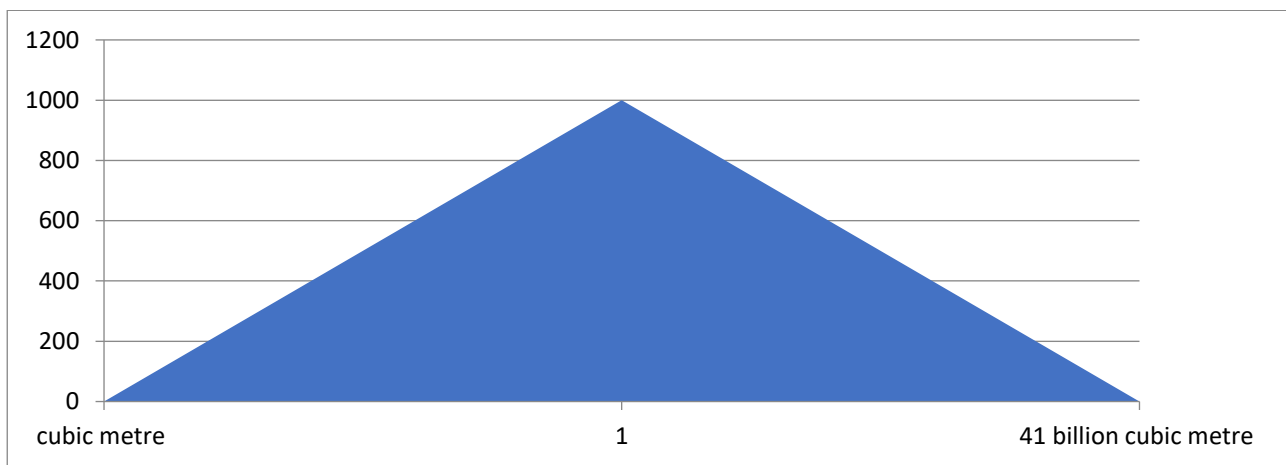


Figure 6: Water Volume Distribution in Cubic Meters

X-axis: Represents the volume of water, starting from 1 cubic meter up to 41 billion cubic meters.

Y-axis: Represents the volume in cubic meters, with intervals marked at every 200 cubic meters up to 1000 cubic meters.

10. Implications for State Sovereignty and International Relations

Territorial conflicts and geopolitical obstacles affect international relations, state sovereignty, and complex historical legacies. This is especially true in South Asia, where national interests and security concerns come together. To fully understand these effects, we must look at state authority, diplomatic relations, and the changing nature of international relations in their more extensive picture settings (De Carvalho 2021).

10.1. Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

The history and strength of a region are profoundly impacted by land disputes, such as the ones Pakistan is currently facing. The sovereignty of a state is called into doubt when there is disagreement over who owns, controls, or rules over specific locations. When a nation does not rely on any outside force for its internal affairs, we say that it is independent. Some doubt Pakistan's ability to deal with border issues threatening its government and safety. ., they do not believe Pakistan is capable of resolving the Durand Line and Kashmir conflict to Pakistan's satisfaction(Haines 2014).

10.2. International Legal Frameworks

International laws and regulations about territorial disputes also impact the power of governments. "Territorial integrity," "self-determination," and "the prohibition of the use of force" are three concepts in international law that allow states to maintain their power while resolving conflicts. Regional and state stability faces jeopardy when individuals interpret the same rules differently or when non-state actors alter contested territories(Rahman, Sultan, and Zaman 2023).

10.3. Security Dynamics

Wars between nations over territory can exacerbate insecurity and strain relations between them. Worst-case scenario: they escalate the situation, round up forces, and start new battles, endangering the security of neighboring nations, the stability of the region, and safety systems worldwide. It impacts all these domains: efforts to defuse disputes in areas with nuclear weapons, ties between Pakistan and India, and security systems in the region(Shukla 2016).

10.4. Conflict Resolution and Diplomatic Engagement

Diplomatic efforts, peace building, and the deployment of conflict settlement strategies are common ways for world leaders to end territorial disputes that undermine the authority of individual states. Essential techniques for facilitating peaceful conflict resolution include track-two diplomacy, trust-building programs, and world events. People can cooperate if they respect international law and opt for nonviolent solutions(Wiegand 2011).

10.5. Power Dynamics and Geopolitical Issues

A complicated phenomenon that is reliant on a range of variables, including geography and the distribution of power, the impact of territorial conflicts on the freedom of states, and the interactions between states, is a phenomenon that is characterized by several different factors. For attaining their long-term goals, altering the region's dynamics, or maintaining stability, it is not commonplace for powerful governments, regional groups, and international organizations to intervene in or resolve conflicts. This is done for a variety of reasons. It will be essential to participate in the practice of clever diplomacy, strategic planning, and collaboration with other governments to strike a balance between these geopolitical forces while simultaneously ensuring the preservation of the state(Ahmed and Khan 2023).

11. Legal Strategies and Policy Recommendations

11.1. Legal Strategies

International law and territorial disputes need Pakistan and other nations to know the rules. Strategies protect national sovereignty, resolve conflicts, and promote peace using international law. This can be done in several ways(Qureshi 2015). Pakistan can defend itself with basic laws. International law promotes territorial integrity, self-determination, and peaceful dispute resolution. Pakistan can express its views and seek justice for territorial disputes like Kashmir by international law, UN rulings, and bilateral agreements. This case illustrates Pakistani law. Several methods can resolve land disputes. Negotiate, hire lawyers, or use legal remedies. You can learn about international law, legal concepts, and fair and impartial legal proceedings from international courts like the International Court of Justice(Khan 2015).

To facilitate the enactment of laws, the settlement of disputes, and the pursuit of agreements, laws are frequently utilized in conjunction with diplomatic initiatives, two-way discussions, and the involvement of several nations. After much effort, rules prioritizing problem-solving are becoming more and more effective. Every agreement, such as the one with India about Shimla, outlines how to resolve disputes, support those harmed, and form new friendships. In a global framework, five or more nations can collaborate to solve issues, formulate programs, and discuss laws. This increases their mutual trust (Mir and Sheikh 2015).

Pakistanis must abide by the laws put in place to resolve land disputes. Observe international law, show civility, seek out legal solutions, and begin lobbying others on your behalf. The objectives are to maintain stability, defend national sovereignty, and resolve complex issues peacefully.

11.2. Policy Recommendations

Pakistan's policy ideas are fundamental because they help the country decide how to handle claims to land, ties with other countries, and conflicts. These steps are political, legal, and strategic. They are meant to make things safer, get people to work together, and protect national interests in a way that meets international laws and rules. More were added to the list below to go with the thoughts above.

As a diplomatic country that wants to use talks as a primary tool, Pakistan should work to end territorial conflicts, improve regional cooperation, and build trust between regional governments. International lines can be brought back, track-two diplomacy can be stepped up, and backchannel negotiations can be looked into. This will help people talk to each other and work out their issues. As you can see above, there are several ways to use it.

Pakistan needs to follow foreign laws, treaties, and agreements. Also, the country should work to make the law clear, back up international law, and accept other countries' rights when it comes to land disputes. As part of this framework, giving people legal options is essential, such as mediation or arbitration when it makes sense and using foreign courts or tribunals to find fair answers to legal problems.

Pakistan should do more to join international and regional groups like the OIC, the UN, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). This will make it easier for countries to work together to get things done and reach goals they all care about, like keeping the peace in the region, making it safer, and growing their economies. India and Pakistan both care about these things.

Pakistan should make a complete plan with legal, humanitarian, and economic parts to avoid and deal with problems better. To do this, they must start projects that build trust and help people get to know each other and countries. The main goal is to work toward long-term peace and safety in the area to make it easier for people to talk to each other and ease conflicts.

To settle territorial disputes and improve ties between countries, policy ideas should stress how important it is to be polite, follow the law, work together, and find ways to settle disagreements that protect peace, stability, and international standards. All of these parts are very important to the process as a whole. International law and territorial disputes need Pakistan and other nations to know the rules. Strategies protect national sovereignty, resolve conflicts, and promote peace using international law. This can be done in several ways.

Pakistan can defend itself with basic laws. International law promotes territorial integrity, self-determination, and peaceful dispute resolution. Pakistan can express its views and seek justice for territorial disputes like Kashmir by international law, UN rulings, and bilateral agreements. This case illustrates Pakistani law.

Several methods can resolve land disputes. Negotiate, hire lawyers, or use legal remedies. You can learn about international law, legal concepts, and fair and impartial legal proceedings from international courts like the International Court of Justice.

To facilitate the enactment of laws, the settlement of disputes, and the pursuit of agreements, laws are frequently utilized in conjunction with diplomatic initiatives, two-way discussions, and the involvement of several nations. After much effort, rules prioritizing problem-solving are becoming more and more effective. Every agreement, such as the one with India about Shimla, outlines how to resolve disputes, support those harmed, and form new friendships. In a global framework, five or more nations can collaborate to solve issues, formulate programs, and discuss laws.

Pakistanis must abide by the laws put in place to resolve land disputes. Observe international law, show civility, seek out legal solutions, and begin lobbying others on your behalf. The objectives are to maintain stability, defend national sovereignty, and resolve complex issues peacefully.

12. Conclusion

Pakistan has multiple issues with its neighbors, as well as problems with security, the legal system, and political ideologies. All of these falls within the purview of foreign policy. These demonstrate how difficult it is for the nation to get along with other countries and how diplomacy and international law help it discover its independence. Realists claim that Pakistan is deeply involved in foreign affairs. This demonstrates the difficulty of maintaining local security, preserving national sovereignty, and juggling competing interests. Pakistan has a complex but effective foreign policy due to the legacy of the past, stagnation of security, and power struggles. To protect its sovereignty and security, Pakistan requires a comprehensive defense plan, diplomatic relations, and international coordination because of territorial disputes, border security issues, and transnational dangers. To solve problems, communicate, and establish good relations with foreigners, Pakistan uses law, negotiation, and policy. Good governance, local safety, and international cooperation require respect for national authority and moral conduct. To achieve national goals while following international law, leadership must prepare and encourage diverse groups to work together to address security issues and resolve conflicts. Besides law and diplomacy, Pakistan must prioritize peace, security, and regional cooperation. Policies must address significant issues, be equitable, allow dispute resolution, and involve all stakeholders to understand reality and state authority. The rules should build national trust, and their stranded status highlights how states struggle to maintain independence in changing global conditions. Pakistan's laws, diplomacy, and policies can develop, secure, and ensure peaceful South Asia. It solves problems and seizes opportunities.

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